



PEGGY A. WEST

1st Vice Chairwoman • 12th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that this finds you in the best of health and spirits this holiday season. The 2017 budget presented some unique challenges. A structural deficit many years in the making left this County Board with very few options to fund our vital transportation system and other important investments. Your input is vital, so I invite you to share your thoughts with me on County Government and some key/current issues at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/699KF3Q.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly by phone at (414) 278-4269 or by email at peggy.west@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

I am planning a series of listening sessions for this spring and summer to gather your ideas on Milwaukee County government going forward. As always, I hope to hear from you as I am out and about in District 12.

Yours Truly,

Peggy A. West
Milwaukee County Supervisor, District 12



FALL/WINTER 2016

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Milwaukee County
Board of Supervisors,
1st Vice Chairwoman

Finance and Audit Committee,
Chairwoman

Judiciary, Safety and General
Services Committee

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MilwCntySuperDist12PRomoWest](http://www.facebook.com/MilwCntySuperDist12PRomoWest)

Mitchell Park Domes

Earlier this year, the Domes at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory were closed to the public so fixes to improve safety could be made to them. The Domes, one of District 12's most beloved and iconic landmarks, were reopened in their entirety on October 29th, when the Desert Dome, the last of the three opened its doors to the public once more; a stainless steel mesh lining was installed in each one in order to make them safe to the public again. In honor of all three domes being reopened, a celebration was held on December 1st that featured Christmas folk music, a holiday floral show, and a performance by students in the local Latino Arts Strings Program.

A Domes Task Force, to which I was appointed, was also formed. It has deliberated twice so far in 2016 and will continue to do so in an attempt to reach a decision regarding the long-term future of the Domes. I believe that we should save the Domes: they are an integral part of our 12th District's community and removing them would be the equivalent of removing a part of our district's identity. It is my hope that we can find a solution wherein the Domes would be saved and remain open to the public for a long time.



www.county.milwaukee.gov/West

2017 Milwaukee County Budget and the Wheel Tax

No Milwaukee County Executive has proposed new tax increases since 2002, and because of this, the structural deficit has finally caught up with us. We can no longer kick the can down the road. Closing the \$37 million 2017 budget gap required significant new revenue or unacceptable cuts. Supervisors found a middle ground and passed a responsible, balanced budget.

Supervisors listened to constituents' concerns about Abele's \$60 wheel tax or Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF), and balanced those concerns with the need for revenue by cutting the wheel tax in half, to \$30. Supervisors also cut more than \$13.6 million in spending and reduced the County Executive's proposed increase to the property tax levy in order to balance the budget. Eliminating the wheel tax entirely would require an additional \$13.6 million in painful cuts that are unacceptable if we want a healthy economy.

Most experts agree that a strong transit system is essential for our regional economy. Rob Henken of the non-partisan Public Policy Forum testified at the October 31, 2016 budget hearing that at least "some VRF revenue is required" in 2017 "in order to maintain existing service levels, address infrastructure needs, and avoid budget gimmicks." The County Comptroller issued a report on our transit needs and the impact of a VRF, saying "within the next five years, without major changes in passenger rates or route reductions, the fixed-route transit operating system will need \$28 million of additional local support on an annual basis."

If the VRF were entirely eliminated from the 2017 budget, the consequences could be devastating for our economy.

\$0 in VRF revenue means bus service would have to be cut by 16% or nearly 230,000 bus hours. Critical, job-creating infrastructure projects to maintain our roads and highways would be delayed or canceled. The GO Pass, which is not only popular but also provides independence to seniors and the disabled, would have to be eliminated entirely.

Some people believe that the extremely popular GO Pass is a budget buster, but this is not true. The GO Pass provided about \$3 million in bus service for seniors and the disabled in 2016, which is only about .2% of the transportation budget of \$153 million. Starting in 2017, GO Pass users will pay a \$5 registration fee and starting in 2018, GO Pass users will pay a \$1 daily fare. Together, these measures will generate about \$2.2 million annually.

I did not like the idea of adding an additional tax. Milwaukee County taxpayers do not need any more vehicle registration taxes on top of the ones already in place from the state and the City of Milwaukee. We were in between a rock and a hard place, however, and I believe that the alternatives would have put taxpayers and the County as a whole in a worse position for both the immediate and the long-term future. A \$60 wheel tax, as initially proposed by the County Executive, would have been simply preposterous and the strain it would place on low-income households might have been unsustainable. The other option, not implementing any wheel tax at all, would have left our County in an ever-growing financial hole for the next budget and every subsequent one after that. We were unfortunately left without any desirable options.

In the Community With Supervisor Peggy West



Supervisors Sartori, West & Taylor join Joyce Garbaciak for the WISN 12 Food for Families Phone Bank, which raised over \$160,000 to feed families over this holiday season.



Sup. West congratulates our District 12 Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Awardee, Lena Mitchell, on her induction into the Milwaukee County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame.



Sup. West celebrates being elected 1st Vice Chair of the Milwaukee County Board for her third time.



Sup. West, with advocates of the homeless, supporting the "Time of the Month Club" drive which provides feminine hygiene products to local shelters.

Sleep Out Saturday to Raise Homeless Awareness

In October I spent a Saturday night outside in Clarke Square Park, together with several homeless advocates and volunteers from the community, to bring attention to the challenges of homelessness in Milwaukee County.

The annual event, dubbed "Sleep Out Saturday," brings together shelter professionals, advocates, the faith community, youth, law enforcement, elected officials, concerned citizens and the homeless to share in the experience of homelessness. The event is an opportunity to become better advocates and to draw attention to the serious issue of homelessness in our community.

Sleep Out Saturday included several components this year, starting with a clothing and personal hygiene products drive. Organizers collected underwear, socks, personal hygiene products, large size diapers, and feminine hygiene products, as well as blankets, coats, mittens, hats and scarves. Volunteers distributed items to homeless individuals Saturday night and overnight into Sunday morning.

New to this year's Sleep Out Saturday was a community meal on Saturday night in the Clarke Square Park pavilion. There is currently only one meal program operating in Milwaukee County on Saturday nights, despite a significant need for additional free meal programs.

A third component of the event, also new this year, were two workshops. The first workshop, "How Do We End Homelessness? What's the Plan?" included a discussion on 10-year plan goals and strategies for ending homelessness.



Above: Tents set up in Clarke Square Park to raise awareness of homelessness.



Left: Sup. West speaks with a reporter about the Sleep Out Saturday event.

The second workshop, "Five Ways YOU Can Help Right Now" included specific ways to take action and a discussion on how the homelessness advocacy system accomplishes its goals.

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that contributed to making this year's Sleep Out Saturday a resounding success!



For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC



Sup. West performs the duty of the Chair briefly during the 2017 Budget deliberations, which is the key responsibility of the 1st Vice Chair.



Sup. West with her daughter, Erica, and granddaughter, Bobbie Rae, celebrate Mexican Independence Day in the UMOS Mexican Independence Day Parade 2016.

Sup. West and Alderman José Pérez hosted the 3rd Annual Safe Trick or Treat in the Park at Walker Square Park.



Sup. West and her family celebrated the marriage of her daughter Erica to Fabian Rodriguez at the Villa Terrace Art Museum in August 2016.





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Southside National Night Out

The 12th Annual Southside National Night Out celebration took place on Tuesday, August 2. The event featured displays from the Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee Fire Department, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department and showcased a variety of community organizations.

Attendees enjoyed free refreshments and entertainment provided by DJ Monk and Maracujaz, a Brazilian and American Jazz group. Dignitaries, including Alderman José Pérez, Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, District Attorney John Chisholm, and Parks Director John Dargle attended the Opening Ceremonies. Thanks again to our many generous sponsors!



*Sup. West
with a group
of volunteers
and attendees
from this year's
Southside
National Night
Out Event.*

IMPORTANT COUNTY NUMBERS

Supervisor Peggy A. West 278-4269	Dept. on Aging 289-6874	Milwaukee County Sheriff 278-4766
County Board of Supervisors 278-4222	Dept. of Health & Human Services 289-6817	Milwaukee County Transit System 344-6711
County Executive 278-4211	Disabilities Services Division 289-6660	Milwaukee County Zoo 771-3040
Behavioral Health Division 257-6995	District Attorney 278-4653	Milwaukee Public Museum 278-2700
Boerner Botanical Gardens 525-5600	Economic & Community Development 278-4905	Mitchell International Airport 747-5300
Child Support Enforcement 278-5160	Economic Support Division 289-6000	Mitchell Park Domes 257-5611
Clerk of Circuit Court 278-5362	Election Commission 278-4060	Office of Persons & Disabilities 278-3932
Courts	House of Correction 427-4700	TTY 278-3937
Criminal Court 278-4538	Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater 278-2728	Register in Probate 278-4444
Civil Court 278-4120	Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 273-7206	Register of Deeds 278-4011
Children's Court 257-7700	Medical Examiner 223-1200	Timmerman Airport 461-3222
Small Claims Court 278-4140	Mental Health Complex 257-6995	Veterans Services 278-4054
County Clerk 278-4067	Milwaukee Art Museum 224-3200	War Memorial Center 273-5533
County Treasurer 278-4033	Milwaukee County Historical Society 273-8288	Wehr Nature Center 425-8550
Dept. of Audit Fraud Hotline 93-FRAUD	Milwaukee County Parks 257-PARK	

Supervisor West invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!

 MITCHELL PARK DOMES 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee (414) 257-5611 www.milwaukeedomes.org Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for Milwaukee County residents. Excludes major holidays.	 Milwaukee County ZOO 10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee (414) 256-5412 www.milwaukeezoo.org 2017 Free Days: 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.	 mpm MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee (414) 278-2728 • www.mpm.edu Free to all the first Thursday of every month, sponsored by Kohl's. County residents get \$2 off every day.	 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM 700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee (414) 224-3200 • www.mam.org Free the first Friday of every month for all visitors, sponsored by Meijer.
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